# Abbitt Believes New Law To Benefit Burley Tobacco Growers

Washington.- Representative Watkins M. Abbitt (D.-Va.) said today he is convinced that recent legislation adopted by the Congress dealing with Burley tobacco and providing for general assistance to other tobacco growers "will meet with positive approval of those who desire to see a continued sound tobacco program."

The new legislation, Abbitt said, will be a stimulus to the entire tobacco program. "It contains a pound of cure for Burley and at the same time carries an ounce of prevention for other types of tobacco," he said.

The Congressman pointed out "There has been a considerable amount of excess tobacco grown for all types but much more grown in Burley than in any other type. I believe approval of this bill will plug holes in time to prevent drastic cuts in the future for other types," Abbitt commented.

The bill has been enacted into law after a lengthy debate over provisions concerning Burley tobacco. Senate approval came one week after the House had passed the Abbitt bill. Congressman Abbitt, the chairman of the Tobacco Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, sponsored the legislation.

In view of questions arising concerning other types of tobacco, Abbitt said he intends to call a conference of tobacco growers. Department officials and representatives of the tobacco industry some time after the congressional Easter recess, which ends on April 13. The Congressman said there were several matters which arose during the Subcommittee's hearings on the Burley program which left questions in the minds of growers of other types.

"I feel that we should look into other problems which apparently are existing in the dark-fired and flue cured categories. It is my plan to call in some of the Department officials and representatives of the growers to see if there are any further remedial steps that we should take at this time. We want to do everything possible to keep our tobacco program strong and steady at this time," the Congressman pointed out.

Abbitt said he was most pleased over the action which the Congress took on the tobacco bill which he sponsored and indicated that some of the holes in the existing program had been caught in time to prevent a serious situation in tobacco.

He referred to a provision to increase the penalty for sale of excess tobacco from 50 to 75 per cent of the average market price during the previous year.

"I believe this will prevent growers of other types of tobacco getting into the unfavorable position that Burley growers now find themselves," Abbitt said.

Another weakness in the program he added, would be remedied by a provision designed to keep growers from inching up in their acreage allotments by overplanting and taking a penalty.

This provision would prevent credit for such excess plantings in establishing future allotments of individual growers, Abbitt said.

The Congressman said there was considerable pressure to recommend a higher minimum allotment for Burley than the compromise of .5 of an acre. He stood fast for the .5 provision. "I felt the .5 was needed to save the Burley program," he said.

Representative Abbitt said he was particularly encouraged by the fact that the Senate gave such speedy approval to the bill he sponsored. This bill lumped together provisions of the original Abbitt Bill as well as the major provisions of other bills dealing with the tobacco program. The Senate Agriculture Committee had previously approved individual bills. After the approval of the House, the Senate then took up the Abbitt Bill.

In addition to the marketing quota and minimum acreage allotment reductions, the bill also would:

Increase penalties on overproduction of tobacco from 50 to 75 per cent of the average market price of the previous year.

Penalize false reports of acreage planted in amounts equalling the unreported acreage in the following year's allotment.

Ban use of excess acreage from which tobacco is marketed under penalties in providing increased acreage allotments.

Two efforts to pass the minimum acreage allotment of seven-tenths of an acre were defeated before the House passed the bill without a record vote.

One would have changed the bill its provision for the minimum from a half an acre, with the cut limited to one-tenth in any year. The other limited the minimum to one-tenth and fixed it permanently at that acre.

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First grade, Mrs. Gregory: Charles Doss, Ray Johnson, Scottie Morris, Wayne Reed, Paul Reed, Richard Woodson, Lewis Peck, Carolyn Carter, Nancy Cheatham, Nancy Cole, Essie Mae Durie, Elaine Ferguson, Helen Garrett, Charlotte Lawson.

First grade, Mrs. Sallie Martin: Charles Blackwell, Freddy Lee Godsey, Earl Wayne Martin, Ernest Patmayberry, Irie Mays, Donald Pugh, Edwin Stanley, Charles Wallace, Michael Wallace, Kathleen Flynn Marion Inge, Barbar Ann Reed, Glinda Gayle Richardson, Joyce Ann Webb, June Ann Wright.

Second grade, Miss Smith: Nell Conner, Kenneth Ferguson, James Gurney, Wilfred Rogers, Eugene Shirey, Rebekah Barger, Katherine Caldwell, Dale Doss, Patricia Ferguson, Bonnie Gilbert, Carolyn Goad Grey Holland, Marjorie Johnson, Elizabeth King, Dianne Rush, Judy Smith, Kirkie Watson, Hazel Fitzgerald.

Second grade, Mrs. Rogers: Louis Fields, Eugene Phelps, Harry Reed, Claude Richardson, Freddie Thomas Ashby Wright, Joan Ferguson, Linda Jarrell, Mary Catherine Mann, Lois Mays, Susan Nell O'Brien, Patricia Pankey, Linda Shouse, Katurah Smith, Helen Thompson, Jeannette Williams, Louise Peck.

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Third grade, Mrs. Mildred Burkey: Jimmy Burke, Harold Carter, John Gillette, Charles Martin, Douglas Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, David Reid, Herbert Shirey, Joe Terry, Alice Evans, Patricia Hall, Kathryn Taylor.

Fourth grade, Miss Nola Burkey: Watkins Abbitt, Kyle Almond, Blaine Carter, Allen Conner, Billy Ferguson, Donald Giles, G. H. Jamerson, Irby King, Charlie Mayberry, Fred Mayberry, Sherman, Moses, Elmer Phelps, Mary Watkins Booth, Patricia Cheatham, Sue Gilbert, Suzanne Gills, Phyllis Mayberry, Joan Moses, Jacquelyn Sarver, Peggy Saunders, Florence Watson.

Fourth grade, Mrs. Thelma Martin: Claude Byers, Marvin Caldwell, Freddie Carter, Steve Godsey, Wayne Mann, Allen Mayberry, Danny Ray Moon, Clifford Pugh, Buddy Wilcox, Marlene Barger, Barbara Carter, Maggie Ferguson, Margaret Johnson, Helen Mann, Brenda Nash Linda Nash, Linda Thomas, Betty Watson, Helen Fitzgerald.

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Seventh grade, Miss Williams: James Bohannan, Dickie Chandler, Stuart Fuller, Charles Gills, Wayne Giles, Kenneth Lovell, Norman Mayberry, Russell Millner, Charles Shirey, Nancy Christian, Nancy Davis, Aubrey Evans, Patsy Gilbert, Nancy Godsey, Linda Sue Hunter, Katie White, Kitty Vaughan Wood, Peggy Woolridge.

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